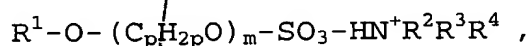


Claims

5 1. A microemulsion containing at least the following components:

(A) 0.5 to 70 % by weight alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkylene-glycolethersulfates having the structure:



wherein

15 R^1 = is a C_8 - to C_{20} -hydrocarbon residue,

p = is an integer from 2 to 5, wherein p can be different for each m ,

R^2 = H, a C_1 - to C_6 -alkyl, or a C_2 - to C_4 -hydroxyalkyl,

20 R^3 = H, a C_1 - to C_6 -alkyl, or a C_2 - to C_4 -hydroxyalkyl,

R^4 = a C_2 - to C_4 -hydroxyalkyl, and

m = is an integer from 0 to 7, or mixtures thereof

25 (B) 20 to 95 % by weight water, and

(C) 0.1 to 20 % by weight one or more oil component(s), and

30 (D) 0.1 to 20 % by weight of one or more mono- or polyvalent C_2 - to C_{24} -alcohol(s),

each based on the total composition.

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2. Microemulsion according to claim 1, wherein the alkanolammonium salts of the alkylsulfates and/or alkylpolyalkyleneglycoethersulfates comprise the following residue or indices:

R^1 = a linear or saturated C_{12} - to C_{16} -alkyl residue,

p = 2 or 3, wherein p can be different for each m ,

R^2 = H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R^3 = H or hydroxyisopropyl,

R^4 = hydroxyisopropyl, and

m = is an integer from 0 to 2.

3. Microemulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the microemulsion contains component

(A) with 2 to 60 % by weight

(B) with 30 to 80 % by weight

(C) with 0.5 to 15 % by weight and

(D) with 0.1 to 9 % by weight.

4. Microemulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, further containing at least one of the following components

(E) 0 to 20 % by weight of one or more additional surfactant(s)

(F) 0 to 20 % by weight of one or more electrolyte(s), and

(G) 0 to 10 % by weight of one or more additive(s).

5. Microemulsion according to claim 4 containing at least one of the following components

- 5 (E) as at least one additional surfactant, triglycerides alkoxyated with ethyleneoxide and/or propyleneoxide and subsequently esterified, wholly or in part, with C₆- to C₂₂-fatty acids, and
- 10 (G) as at least one additive, poly(C₂- to C₄-) alkylene glycols having a molecular weight of up to 1,500 g/mole.

15 6. Microemulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the oil component (C) contains one or more components selected from the group of lecithins; of mono-, di-, and/or triglycerides of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or

20 linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 8 to 24 carbon atoms; branched and/or linear hydrocarbons; waxes; vaseline; paraffin oils; polyolefins; silicone oils and esters of saturated, unsaturated, and/or aromatic, branched and/or

25 linear carboxylic acids having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms and of saturated and/or unsaturated, branched and/or linear alcohols having chain lengths of from 3 to 30 carbon atoms.

30 7. Microemulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the microemulsion is a stable and transparent emulsion the disperse phase thereof having an average particle size of less than 100 nm.

8. The use of the microemulsion according to any one of the preceding claims for cosmetic and/or medicinal-dermatologic applications.
- 5 9. The use of the microemulsion according to any one of claims 1 to 7 as body cleaning and/or body care preparations.
- 10 10. The use of the microemulsion according to claim 9 for cleaning and treating hair, **characterized in that** the microemulsion contains component (C) with 0.1 to 2 % by weight.

add #3/
add #4/